

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An information acquisition method for an information processing apparatus which acquires attribute information related to image data of images stored in an external device, comprising:

detecting whether the information processing apparatus is connected to the external device so that they can communicate with each other; ~~and~~

acquiring, for each of the images, partial information instead of full information of the attribute information if it is detected that the information processing apparatus is connected to the external device; and

acquiring, for each of the images, information including the rest of the attribute information after acquiring the partial information of the attribute information.

2. (Previously Presented) The information acquisition method according to claim 1, wherein the partial information of the attribute information requires a shorter period of time to be acquired than the rest of the attribute information.

3. (Currently Amended) The information acquisition method according to claim 1,  
~~further comprising: wherein~~

in response to a request for an image by the information processing apparatus, ~~acquiring~~  
~~from the external device information including the rest of~~ the attribute information of the  
requested image ~~except for the previously acquired partial information of the attribute~~  
information is acquired from the external device.

4. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for an image recording  
apparatus which generates attribute information related to image data of stored images,  
comprising:

detecting whether the image recording apparatus is connected to an external device so  
that they can communicate with each other;

generating, for each of the images, partial information of the attribute information if it is  
detected that the image recording apparatus is connected to the external device; ~~and~~

transmitting the generated partial information instead of full information of the attribute  
information to the external device; and

transmitting, after transmitting the partial information, information including the rest of  
the attribute information for an image.

5. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to  
claim 4, wherein the partial information of the attribute information requires a shorter period of  
time to be transmitted than the rest of the attribute information.

6. (Currently Amended) The information processing method according to claim 4, further comprising:

generating, in response to a request for an image by the external device, ~~generating the information including the rest of the attribute information of the requested image, except for the previously generated partial information of the attribute information; and~~

~~transmitting wherein the generated information including the rest of the attribute information is transmitted~~ to the external device.

7. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:  
a connection unit that is connectable to an external device so to be communicated therewith; and

an attribute information acquisition unit that acquires attribute information related to image data of images recorded in the external device,

wherein said attribute information acquisition unit acquires for each of the images from the external device partial information instead of full information of the attribute information when the information processing apparatus is connected to the external device, and

after acquiring the partial information, said attribute information acquisition unit acquires, for each of the images in the external device, information including the rest of the attribute information.

8. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the partial information of the attribute information requires relatively short periods of time for information acquisition processing of the information processing apparatus among the attribute information.

9. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein, in response to a request for an image by the information processing apparatus, said attribute information acquisition unit acquires from the external device information including the rest of the attribute information of the requested image except for the previously acquired partial information of the attribute information.

10. (Currently Amended) An image recording apparatus comprising:  
memory for storing plurality of recorded images;  
an attribute information generation unit that generates attribute information related to image data of recorded images stored in the memory; and  
a transmission unit that transmits the attribute information generated by said attribute information generation unit to an external device, wherein  
when the image recording apparatus is connected to the external device so that they can communicate with each other, the attribute information generation unit generates, for each of the images, partial information of the attribute information, and the transmission unit transmits the generated partial information instead of full information to the external device, and  
after transmitting the partial information, the transmission unit transmits information including the rest of the attribute information for each of the images.

11. (Original) The image recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the partial information of the attribute information requires relatively short periods of time for information acquisition processing of the external device.

12. (Currently Amended) The image recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein, in response to a request for an image by the external device, said attribute information generation unit generates the information including the rest of the attribute information of the requested image ~~except for the previously acquired partial information of the attribute information~~, and said transmission unit transmits to the external device the generated information including the rest of the attribute information ~~except for the previously generated partial information of the attribute information~~.

13. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for a digital imaging system having a digital image generating apparatus and an information processing apparatus, the digital image generating apparatus storing image data of a plurality of generated images as image files in a storage device, said method comprising:

the ~~image~~information processing apparatus managing a plurality of pieces of attribute information contained in object information related to each of the image files in the digital image generating apparatus in two or more categories; ~~and~~

the ~~image~~information processing apparatus creating for each of the image files, an object only containing information in a part instead of in full of the categories out of the plurality of pieces of attribute information when the digital image generating apparatus is connected to the information processing apparatus; and

the information processing apparatus adding to the created object for each of the image files information of the rest of the categories of the attribute information.

14. (Original) The information processing method according to claim 13, wherein,

when an application running on the information processing apparatus requires overall image data of an image, the digital image generating apparatus generates attribute information of the required image except for the attribute information in the part of the categories generated at the time of the connection between the information processing apparatus and the digital image generating apparatus, and

the information processing apparatus acquires the generated attribute information, and then stores and manages the generated attribute information in the object created at the time of the connection.

15. (Original) The information processing method according to claim 13, wherein the information in the part of the categories of the attribute information is acquired from management information held by a file system in the digital image generating apparatus.

16. (Original) The information processing method according to claim 14, wherein the attribute information except for the information in the part of the categories of the attribute information contains data in a file stored in the digital image generating apparatus.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program for causing a computer to execute the information acquisition method according to claim 1.

18. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program for causing a computer to execute the information processing method according to claim 4.

19. (Previously Presented) A computer readable encoded with a computer program for causing a computer to execute the information processing method according to claim 13.

20. (Previously Presented) The information acquisition method according to claim 1, wherein said partial information includes at least one of a file name, a file size, and date and time when a file is generated.

21. (Currently Amended) The information acquisition method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said partial~~ the rest of the attribute information includes at least one of thumbnail data corresponding to the image data, a size of the image data, and a size of the thumbnail data corresponding to the image data.

22. (Previously Presented) The information acquisition method according to claim 1, wherein said partial information includes information obtained without analyzing a file of the image data.



23. (Previously Presented) The information acquisition method according to claim 1, wherein the rest of the attribute information other than said partial information includes information obtained by analyzing a file of the image data.

24. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 4, wherein said partial information includes at least one of a file name, a file size, and date and time when a file is generated.

25. (Currently Amended) The information processing method according to claim 4, wherein ~~said partial~~ the rest of the attribute information includes at least one of thumbnail data corresponding to the image data, a size of the image data, and a size of the thumbnail data corresponding to the image data.

26. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 4, wherein said partial information includes information obtained without analyzing a file of the image data.

27. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 4, wherein the rest of the attribute information other than said partial information includes information obtained by analyzing a file of the image data.

28. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said partial information includes at least one of a file name, a file size, and date and time when a file is generated.

29. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein ~~said partial~~ the rest of the attribute information includes at least one of thumbnail data corresponding to the image data, a size of the image data, and a size of the thumbnail data corresponding to the image data.

30. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said partial information includes information obtained without analyzing a file of the image data.

31. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the rest of the attribute information other than said partial information includes information obtained by analyzing a file of the image data.

32. (Previously Presented) The image recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said partial information includes at least one of a file name, a file size, and date and time when a file is generated.

33. (Currently Amended) The image recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein ~~said partial~~ the rest of the attribute information includes at least one of thumbnail data corresponding to the image data, a size of the image data, and a size of the thumbnail data corresponding to the image data.

34. (Previously Presented) The image recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said partial information includes information obtained without analyzing a file of the image data.

35. (Previously Presented) The image recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the rest of the attribute information other than said partial information includes information obtained by analyzing a file of the image data.

36. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 13, wherein said partial information includes at least one of a file name, a file size, and date and time when a file is generated.

37. (Currently Amended) The information processing method according to claim 13, wherein ~~said partial~~ the rest of the attribute information includes at least one of thumbnail data corresponding to the image data, a size of the image data, and a size of the thumbnail data corresponding to the image data.

38. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 13, wherein said partial information includes information obtained without analyzing a file of the image data.

39. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 13, wherein the rest of the attribute information other than said partial information includes information obtained by analyzing a file of the image data.

40. (New) The information acquisition method according to claim 1, further comprising acquiring from the external device a list of information for specifying image data stored in the external apparatus in advance of acquiring the partial information of the attribute information.

41. (New) The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said attribute information acquisition unit further acquires from the external device a list of information for specifying image data stored in the external apparatus in advance of acquiring the partial information of the attribute information.